



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BUILDING 350
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

AFZX-SA

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Independence Day Safety Message

1. The Independence Day holiday is a celebration of freedom for our nation. In the midst of the festivities, let's ensure we observe the celebration safely and responsibly.
2. The largest number of injuries and deaths during the long weekend are due to privately owned vehicle (POV) accidents. Specifically, these accidents occur because Soldiers choose to drive during high risk periods in hopes of maximizing their off-duty time. Summer brings more hazards with boating, water skiing, fishing, and family outings. The National Safe Boating Council reports that over 700 boating accident fatalities occur each year. Most of the fatalities are due to drowning because the person was not wearing a personal floatation device (PFD). All leaders must know the destination of their subordinates, how far they plan to travel each day and how they have planned their trip in order to ensure their safe return. During the Memorial Day holiday, we tragically lost a Soldier to an all terrain vehicle (ATV) accident. I expect all Soldiers and civilians to act responsibly when operating any type of vehicle. At the minimum, unit safety briefings will address the following:
 - a. Wearing of appropriate riding gear for all motorcycles and ATV riders.
 - b. Refraining from aggressive driving and driving under the influence of illicit drugs/alcohol.
 - c. Obeying the posted speed limits, wearing of seat belts, planning trips, reviewing precautions for driving during adverse weather, and taking rest breaks.
 - d. Operating boats in a safe manner and the wearing of personal floatation devices.
3. All MSCs will report compliance with the above regulatory safety requirements and the command policy letters to the SGS NLT 1500, 30 June 2006; 0630, 1 July 2006; and 1530, 5 July 2006.

MICHAEL D. BARBERO
Brigadier General (P), USA
Commanding

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